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Message Text

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13
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /028 W
---------- 042070
R 142024Z FEB 75
FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9298
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 0637

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, HO
SUBJECT: ARMED FORCES REASSIGNMENTS AND NAMING OF NEW MINGOV

REF: STATE 030264 (NOTAL)

1. NEW MILITARY ASSIGNMENTS WERE FORMALLY RATIFIED ON 31 JAN UARY 1975 AS PART OF A GENERAL SHUFFLE OF MILITARY POSITIONS (SEE USDAO IR 6841005675 AND 6841005875 FOR DETAILS). IN CONJUNCTION WITH REASSIGNMENTS, THE PREVIOUS CHIEF OF THE GENERAL STAFF, COLONEL JOSE DE LA CRUZ HERNANDEZ, WAS APPONTED TO FILL THE POST OF MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT AND JUSTICE ON FEBRUARY 3. HE REPLACED COLONEL JUAN ALBERTO MELGAR WHO WAS GIVEN COMMAND OF THE FIFTH BRIGADE HEADQUARTERED AT SAN PEDRO SULA.

2. PREVIOUS MISSION MESSAGES IN THE LATTER MONTHS OF 1974 REPORTED THAT THERE WERE DISSIDENT OFFICERS WHO WANTED GENERAL LOPEZ TO MAKE CHANGES IN THE MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT AND THE CABINET. LOPEZ TOLD THEM THAT HE WOULD IMPLEMENT THE NECESSARY CHANGES IN THE NEAR FUTURE. AS A RESULT, HE WAS ABLE TO MOLLIFY AND AMELIORATE THE DISCONTENT.

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3. THE RECENT REASSIGNMENTS APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN SUCCESS-

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FUL IN GENERALLY SATISFYING THE OFFICER CORPS. THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT DISSIDENCE OR A DEGREE OF DISSATISFACTION DOES NOT STILL EXIST. HOWEVER, IT HAS BEEN EFFECTIVELY DEFUSED, AT LEAST FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

4. THE MOVE TO SUBSTITUTE HERNANDEZ FOR MELGAR HAS SATISFIED BOTH OF THEM AND HAS BEEN WELL RECEIVED IN THE MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT. MELGAR IS HAPPY ABOUT BEING REASSIGNED TO TROOP COMMAND DUTY, AND HERNANDEZ IS HAPPY ABOUT BEING NAMED TO A PRESTIGIOUS AND IMPORTANT CABINET POSITION.

5. COMMENT: THE ASSIGNMENT OF HERNANDEZ IS UNDOUBTEDLY AN ADVANTAGE IN TERMS OF OUR DEALING WITH THE GOVERNMENT. MELGAR WAS RELATIVELY REMOTE AND DIFFICULT EVEN THOUGH HE WAS NOT UNFRIENDLY. HERNANDEZ, ON THE OTHER HAND, IS FRIENDLY AND OPEN WITH MISSION OFFICIALS AND CAN BE EXPECTED TO BE MORE COOPERATIVE.
SANCHEZ

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